

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting essentially of a blend of esters and internal olefins said method comprising blending esters with internal olefins to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein the esters are prepared from olefins combined with either fatty acids or alcohols, and wherein the internal olefins each comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms and are selected from the group consisting of branched internal olefins, poly-branched internal olefins, and mixtures thereof, and no linear alpha olefins, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of esters and isomerized olefins having a cyclic structure.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said internal olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
7. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said esters comprise about 5 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
8. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, said method comprising blending providing esters with internal olefins to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein the esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols and wherein the internal olefins each comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms and are selected from the group consisting of branched internal olefins, poly-branched internal olefins, and mixtures thereof, and no linear alpha olefins, and blending said esters with internal olefins for the base of said

emulsion, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
12. — 15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~drilling fluid method~~ of claim ~~15~~ 8 wherein each double bond site in said internal olefins is internal the molecule.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~drilling fluid method~~ of claim ~~14~~ 8 wherein said olefins ~~hydrocarbons~~ comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend and include no linear alpha olefins.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~drilling fluid method~~ of claim ~~14~~ 8 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
21. — 26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, the method comprising blending together esters and paraffins to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein the esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols or from olefins combined with either fatty acids or alcohols, and the
~~wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting of a blend of esters and paraffins~~
hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 27 wherein said paraffins ~~hydrocarbons~~ comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
31. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 27 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
34. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
35. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Canceled)
38. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, the method comprising blending together wherein said invert emulsion has a base consisting essentially of a blend of esters and mineral oil hydrocarbons to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein the esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols or from olefins combined with either fatty acids or alcohols, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.
39. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise less than about 1 weight percent aromatics.
40. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, isoparaffins, cycloparaffins, branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, and mixtures thereof, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
41. (Currently amended) The method ~~drilling fluid~~ of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise olefins, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters comprise at least about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
44. (Canceled)
45. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
46. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
47. (Currently amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
48. (Canceled)
49. (Canceled)
50. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion, the method comprising blending together glyceride triesters and other esters without linear alpha olefins to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and other esters, without linear alpha olefins, wherein said glyceride triesters are obtained or derived from an oil selected from the group consisting of: olive oil, canola oil, castor oil, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, lard oil, linseed oil, neatsfoot oil, palm oil, peanut oil, perilla oil, rice bran oil, safflower oil, sardine oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.
51. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said glyceride triesters comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
52. (Canceled)
53. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein ~~said~~ the other esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
54. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein ~~said~~ the other esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.

55. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 54 wherein ~~said the other~~ esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
56. (Currently amended) A The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 54 ~~comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and~~ wherein the other esters are prepared from fatty acids ~~and alcohols~~ having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
57. (Canceled)
58. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein ~~said the other~~ esters are prepared from internal olefins combined with either ~~and~~ fatty acids or alcohols.
59. — 80. (Canceled)
81. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising ~~obtaining or preparing~~ preparing the a drilling fluid according to the method of claim 1 and providing or using the drilling fluid in circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
82. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising ~~obtaining or preparing~~ preparing the a drilling fluid according to the method of claim 14- 8 and providing or using the drilling fluid in circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
83. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising ~~obtaining or preparing~~ preparing the a drilling fluid according to the method of claim 27 and providing or using the drilling fluid in circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
84. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising ~~obtaining or preparing~~ preparing a the drilling fluid according to the method of claim 38 and providing or using the drilling fluid in circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
85. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising ~~obtaining or preparing~~ preparing the a drilling fluid

according to the method of claim 50 and providing or using the drilling fluid in and
~~circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.~~

86. — 89 (Canceled)